

By Aaron J. Leichman

<http://www.christianpost.com/article/20100312/persecution-of-religious-minorities-in-iran/>

On the eve of the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, the **U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom**

released a statement condemning the Iranian government's harassment of its citizens over their religious adherence and noted how the government in recent years has stepped up persecution of religious minorities, including Christians, who face physical attacks, harassment, detention, arrests and imprisonment.

"Sadly, the Iranian government has been repressing its citizens on the basis of religious identity for years, but in recent months it has been increasingly manipulating the reach of its religious laws to silence, and in some cases put to death, Shia Muslims simply for exercising their internationally protected rights of freedom of expression and freedom of thought, conscience, religion, or belief," reported **USCIRF Chair Leonard Leo**.